

DUAL SHORT THROW ADVANCER/RETRACTOR

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

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5 This application is a continuation of U.S. Application No. 10/175,673, filed June 19, 2002, ^{now US Patent No. 6,736,812.}

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to medical devices in general and in particular to advancers and retractors to be used with endoscopes.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

10 In many surgical situations, physicians prefer to use tools that allow them to perform multiple tasks with minimal movement. Such tools can be not only less expensive than requiring the purchase of multiple tools that perform a single task but can be more efficient during use.

15 One situation where efficiency is required is during an endoscopic examination and tissue removal procedure. To remove tissue such as a polyp or other area of interest, a physician typically views the tissue in question with an endoscope. A catheter having a long needle is passed down a lumen in the endoscope and a liquid, such as saline, is injected under the tissue in question in order to raise it from the surrounding tissue. The needle and catheter are then withdrawn from the endoscope and a cauterizing catheter
20 having a wire snare is inserted through the endoscope to remove and cauterize the tissue.

While this method can work well, two catheters are always required and it takes time for the physician to withdraw the first and insert the second. Therefore, there is a need for a device that allows a physician to manipulate two medical devices in a single catheter.